



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/418,119	10/14/1999	ANGSHUMAN SAHA	239604	8445
24739	7590	06/28/2005	EXAMINER	
CENTRAL COAST PATENT AGENCY PO BOX 187 AROMAS, CA 95004			NGUYEN, DUNG X	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2638	

DATE MAILED: 06/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/418,119

Applicant(s)

SAHA ET AL.

Examiner

Dung X. Nguyen

Art Unit

2631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 17 - 22 and 31 - 36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 31 - 36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 18 - 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, filed on September 10, 2004 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection(s) of the Office action filed on April 15, 2004 has been withdrawn. Claims 1 – 16, 23 – 30, and 37 – 41 have been canceled. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Kobayashi (US patent # 5,737,630).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. **Claim 17 is rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant(s) regard as their invention. Evidence that claim 17 fail(s) to correspond in scope with that which applicant(s) regard as the invention can be found in the reply filed on September 10, 2004. In that paper, applicant has stated "a first device" and "a second device" as recited in line 3 repeatedly. It is not clear if they are the same devices of a different set of devices.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. **Claim 17 is rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi (US patent # 5,737,630).

Regarding claim 17, Kobayashi discloses (figure 1) a method for word synchronization between a plurality of word devices connected by a plurality of serial lines, comprising:

- Requesting synchronization from a first device to a second device when the first device does not have synchronization (requesting for initialization including synchronization, column 2, lines 3 – 13, and column 7, lines 21 – 44)
- Receiving request for synchronization at the first device from the second device, the first device then becoming synchronized (master CPU receives requesting synchronization from slave CPU, column 2, lines 14 – 24); and
- Transmitting data from the first device to the second device, the first device being synchronized, the first device having received from the second device a synchronization signal indicating that the second device is synchronized (acknowledgement, column 3, lines 55 – 65).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. **Claims 18 – 22 are objected** to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. **Claims 31 – 36 are allowed.** The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding to the claimed invention, the prior art of record fails to show or render obvious of a method for word synchronization can be applied to asynchronous devices including SERDES devices connected across serial lines. A state transition methodology characterizes the states of the device based on control word received consistently across the serial lines band channels.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Olafsson (US patent application publication # 2001/0038673 A1) discloses a method and its corresponding apparatus for generating a line impairment learning signal for a data communication system.

Garney et al. (US patent # 6,792,495 B1) discloses a transaction scheduling for a bus system.

Hayes et al. (US patent # 5,218,684) discloses a memory configuration system.

Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dung X. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3010. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 17:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Vanderpuye, Kenneth N. can be reached on (571) 272-3078. The fax phone numbers for this group is (571) 273-3021.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

DXN

June 04, 2005


KENNETH VANDERPUYE
PRIMARY EXAMINER